

# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AMTRAK'S MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER SERVICE

## *executive summary*

Passenger rail service provides an option for connecting rural communities and smaller cities to major economic centers and promotes commerce and economic development, particularly in the areas surrounding stations. The Missouri River Runner Amtrak passenger train route operates two round trips per day across 283 miles of track between the Gateway Transportation Center in St. Louis and Union Station in Kansas City, providing connection to the Southwest Chief and Texas Eagle routes. The Missouri River Runner provides an alternative travel mode along the heavily traveled I-70 corridor between St. Louis and Kansas City.

The Missouri River Runner gives rise to significant benefits in Missouri through travel/transportation, reduced energy consumption, safety, and tourism/visitor spending.



2021 STATE  
FREIGHT AND  
RAIL PLAN



# KEY FINDINGS

## MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER BY THE NUMBERS

IN MISSOURI, THE TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS  
GENERATED BY THE RIVER RUNNER INCLUDE:



**1,250**  
JOBS ANNUALLY



**\$65 MILLION**  
IN ANNUAL LABOR INCOME



**\$208 MILLION**  
IN ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

MORE THAN **\$22 MILLION** IN ANNUAL TAX REVENUE

Amtrak's business presence in Missouri supports local vendors and small businesses statewide.

In 2019, Amtrak spent \$28.9 million to hire services from Missouri's construction, landscaping, railroad, engineering, and technology businesses.

Amtrak employs 78 people statewide, amounting to about \$7.5 million in labor income.

Collectively, Amtrak's direct employment and spending in Missouri yields the following direct, indirect and induced economic benefits:

**450**  
jobs

**\$35.2M**  
in labor  
income

**\$122.6M**  
in economic  
activity

**& \$11.3 MILLION**  
in federal, state & local  
tax revenue.



**82%**  
OF MISSOURIANS  
live within  
**60 MILES**  
of a  
**PASSENGER RAIL  
STATION**

Missouri River Runner riders  
spend an estimated

**\$21.8M** in hotels &  
**\$25.3M** in food & sightseeing costs



each year. This supports direct, indirect  
and induced economic benefits of

over  
**800**  
jobs

**\$30M**  
in labor  
income

**\$86M**  
in economic  
activity

**& \$11 MILLION**  
in federal, state & local tax revenue.



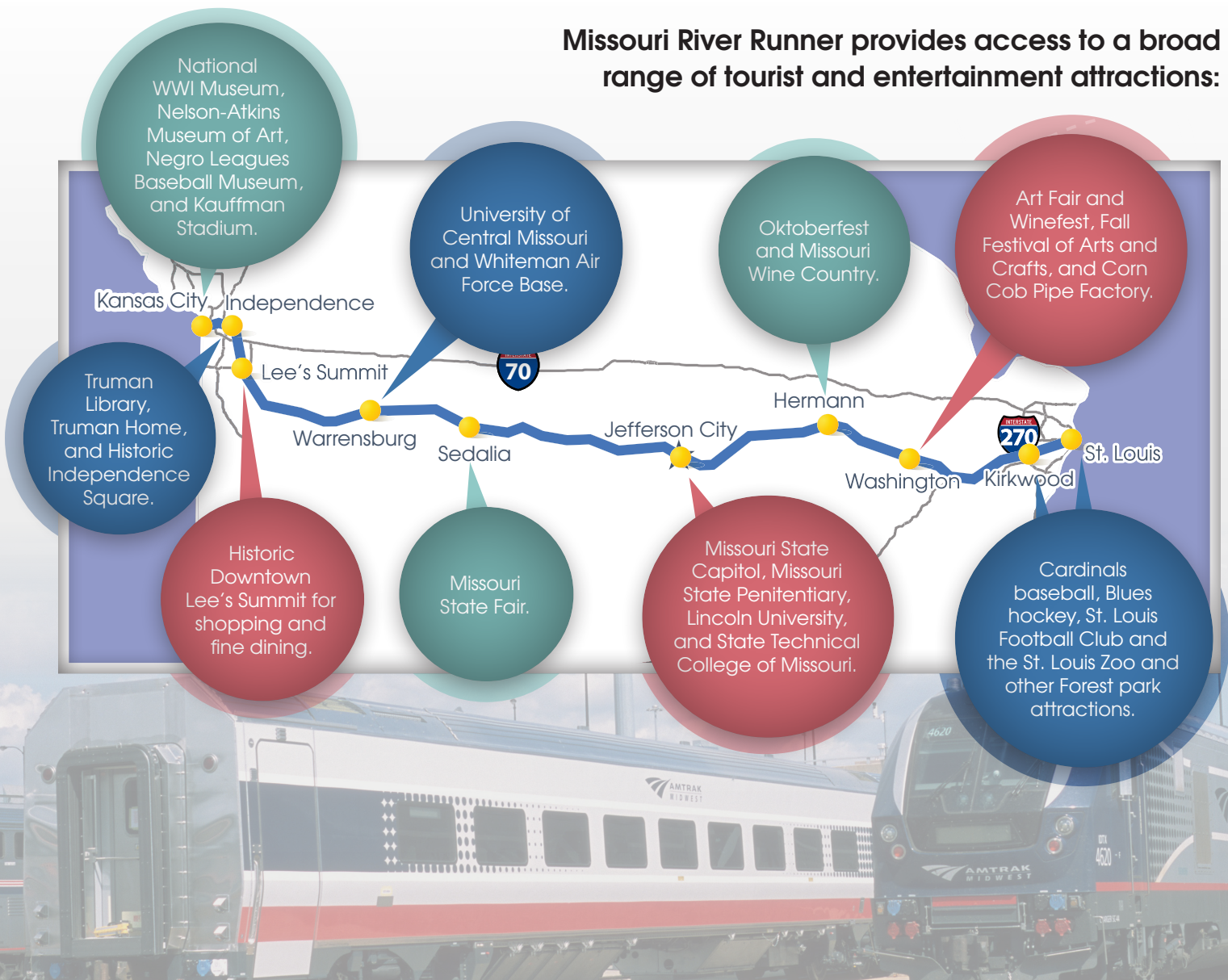
**172,555**  
**PASSENGERS**  
rode the Missouri  
River Runner in **2018**, with  
an average fare of

**\$32.47**  
**PER PASSENGER.**

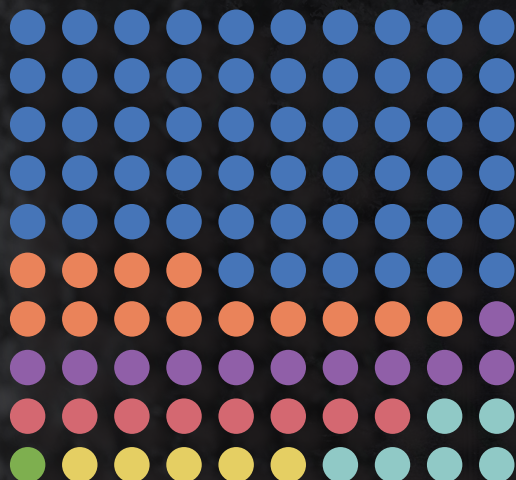


# MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER SERVICE SUPPORTS MISSOURIANS

Missouri River Runner provides access to a broad range of tourist and entertainment attractions:



## WHY DO PEOPLE RIDE THE RIVER RUNNER?



Visit family or friends - 56%

Leisure or recreation - 13%

Daily work commute or business travel - 11%

Vacations - 8%

Personal or family event (e.g., wedding, graduation) - 6%

Travel to or from school - 5%

Shopping - 1%

# Key Takeaways

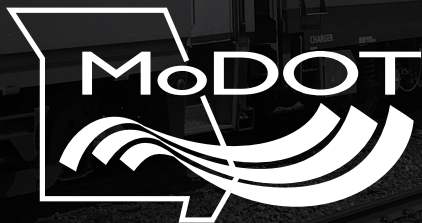
Many Missouri residents and visitors depend on non-highway modes of transportation.

**Enhanced passenger rail service provides important economic development benefits** to Missouri communities by improving accessibility, connectivity, and travel efficiency for both in-state and out-of-state travelers.

**Missouri maintains existing Missouri River Runner service with relatively modest state appropriations.** Missouri has no dedicated funding source for passenger rail. Funding is subject to legislative general revenue appropriation each year and this investment has not kept pace with inflation of the cost to operate the service. In FY 2021, MoDOT received \$8 million in state support for the operation of River Runner service.

**Infrastructure improvements to the St. Louis to Kansas City line have reduced delays and increased reliability.** These improvements were funded primarily by federal sources, with contributions from the state and the railroads.

**The Missouri River Runner service strengthens communities** by providing connectivity amongst Missouri's cities, serving as an anchor to commercial and residential development and encouraging more efficient mobility options in the community.



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